



EFFECTIVE January 1, 2005

**CHANGES TO FINFISH TRAP LIMITATIONS AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS
FISH AND GAME CODE SECTIONS 9000, 9000.5, 9001.5, 9001.6, 9001.7, 9001.8, 9006**



The Finfish Trap Permit requirement has been repealed

Finfish Traps, Other Than Hagfish and Sablefish Trap, Requirements:

- ***Every person on board the vessel must possess a valid general trap permit - New***
- If nearshore species are present, *at least one person* onboard the vessel must possess a valid nearshore fishery permit *and* trap endorsement
- If deeper nearshore species are present, *at least one person* on board the vessel must possess a valid deeper nearshore species fishery permit
- ***Minimum mesh size of 2 inches by 2 inches, statewide - New***
- ***Each buoy must be marked with the fisherman's commercial fishing license number followed by the letter "Z", statewide - New***
- Traps left in the water overnight must be unbaited from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise, with the door secured open
- Popup devices cannot be used
- Each trap must have a trap destruct device
- No finfish traps within 750 feet of any pier, breakwall, or jetty
- No more than 50 traps may be used in state waters along the mainland shore
- When finfish are present, lobster can only be possessed *if each person* on board the vessel has a valid lobster permit
- Lobster and crabs of the genus *Cancer*, except rock crab, yellow crab, and red crab, cannot be used as bait. The Commission is considering a permit requirement for the take of rock crab, including the take of rock crab for use as bait. For more information, go to: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/2003/125regs.pdf>

Hagfish Trap Requirements:

- *Each person* on board the vessel must possess a valid general trap permit
- ***Popup devices cannot be used - New***
- A maximum of 500 Korean traps or 200 bucket traps can be used each day
- No other traps allowed when Korean or bucket traps are on board the vessel
- No species other than hagfish can be taken, possessed, or sold when Korean or bucket traps are on board the vessel

Sablefish Trap Requirements:

- *At least one person* on board the vessel must possess a valid general trap permit
- ***Each buoy must be marked with the fisherman's commercial fishing license number followed by the letter "B", statewide - New***
- South of Point Arguello, Santa Barbara County, traps shall be six feet or less in its greatest dimension, minimum mesh size 2 inches by 2 inches, minimum depth is 200 fathoms.
- South of Point Arguello, Santa Barbara County, no other traps are allowed on board the vessel when fishing for sablefish with traps, except that spot prawn traps may be used under the authority of a spot prawn trap permit

**No changes were made to regulations in Title 14, California Code of Regulations,
relative to nearshore trap limitations**

**Fish and Game Code Sections 9000, 9000.5, 9001.6, 9001.7, 9001.8, and 9006 on
reverse**

Fish and Game Code, effective January 1, 2005:

9000. (a) Except as expressly authorized in this article, no person shall use a trap to take any finfish, mollusk, or crustacean in the waters of this state for commercial purposes.

(b) Traps may be used to take finfish in ocean waters only as authorized by this article.

(c) Freshwater baitfish traps that are used as provided in Section 8463 are not subject to this article.

9000.5. For the purposes of this article, the following terms have the following meanings:

(a) "Bucket trap" means a plastic bucket of five gallons or less in capacity.

(b) "Deeper nearshore species" means those finfish identified as deeper nearshore species in regulations adopted by the commission pursuant to Section 8587.1.

(c) "General trap permit" means a valid permit to take fish for commercial purposes issued pursuant to Section 9001 that has not been suspended or revoked.

(d) "Korean trap" means a molded plastic cylinder that does not exceed 6 inches in diameter and does not exceed 24 inches in length.

(e) "Nearshore species" means those finfish identified as such in regulations adopted by the commission pursuant to Section 8587.1.

(f) "Pop-up" means a mechanism capable of releasing a submerged buoy at a predetermined time.

9001.5. has been repealed

9001.6. Hagfish may be taken under a general trap permit, if all of the following criteria are met:

(a) Korean traps and bucket traps may be used to take only hagfish under this article.

(b) No more than a total of 500 Korean traps or a total of 200 bucket traps may be possessed aboard a vessel or in the water or combination thereof.

(c) No permittee may possess both Korean traps or bucket traps and other types of traps aboard a vessel at the same time. When Korean traps or bucket traps are being used or possessed aboard a vessel, no species of finfish other than hagfish shall be taken, possessed aboard, or sold for commercial purposes.

(d) Popups shall not be used on buoy lines attached to Korean traps or bucket traps, and shall not be possessed by a commercial fisherman aboard a vessel when taking hagfish.

9001.7. Finfish, other than sablefish and hagfish, may be taken under a general trap permit if all of the following criteria are also met:

(a) Every person aboard the vessel possesses a valid general trap permit that has not been suspended or revoked.

(b) If nearshore species are present, at least one person aboard the vessel possesses a valid nearshore fishery permit and a nearshore fishery trap endorsement that has not been suspended or revoked.

(c) If deeper nearshore species are present, at least one person aboard the vessel possesses a valid deeper nearshore species fishery permit that has not been suspended or revoked.

(d) During the period from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise, finfish traps that are left in the water shall be unbaited with the door secured open. If, for reasons beyond the control of the permittee, all trap doors cannot be secured open prior to one hour after sunset, the permittee shall immediately notify the department.

(e) Popups shall not be used on buoy lines attached to finfish traps, and shall not be possessed aboard a vessel when taking finfish under a general trap permit.

(f) Trap destruction devices used on finfish traps shall conform to the current regulatory requirements for those devices pursuant to Section 9003 and as adopted by the commission.

(g) No finfish traps shall be set within 750 feet of any pier, breakwall, or jetty in District 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, 19A, 19B, 20, 20A, 20B, or 21.

(h) No more than 50 finfish traps may be used in state waters along the mainland shore.

(i) The mesh of any finfish trap used pursuant to this section shall measure not less than two inches by two inches.

(j) The following fish shall not be used as bait in finfish traps:

(1) Lobster.

(2) Crabs of the genus cancer, except rock crab, yellow crab, and red crab, as identified in Section 8282, which may be used as bait under the authority of a rock crab trap permit issued pursuant to Section 8282.

(3) Any other finfish or invertebrate to which a minimum size limit applies that is used or possessed in a condition so that its size can not be determined.

(k) Lobster may be possessed aboard or landed from any vessel on which finfish are also present, if every person aboard the vessel has a valid lobster permit that has not been suspended or revoked and complies with Article 5 of Chapter 2 of the Fish and Game Code, this article, and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

9001.8. Sablefish may be taken under a general trap permit in ocean waters between a line extending due west true from Point Arguello in Santa Barbara County and the United States-Mexico international boundary line, if all of the following criteria are also met:

(a) The trap shall be six feet or less in its greatest dimension.

(b) The mesh of any trap used for sablefish pursuant to this section shall measure not less than two inches by two inches.

(c) The trap may be used only in waters 200 fathoms or deeper.

(d) No permittee may possess aboard a vessel at the same time, sablefish traps and any other commercial fishing gear, except that spot prawn traps may be possessed during spot prawn trap open fishing periods as established by the commission and if the permittee has a valid spot prawn trap vessel permit that has not been suspended or revoked.

9006. Every trap used to take finfish or crustaceans shall be marked with a buoy. Each buoy shall be marked to identify the operator as follows:

(a) For a trap used to take lobster, the commercial fishing license identification number followed by the letter "P".

(b) For a trap used to take Dungeness crab or hagfish, the commercial fishing license identification number only.

(c) For a trap used to take finfish other than sablefish or hagfish, the commercial fishing license identification followed by the letter "Z".

(d) For a trap used to take sablefish, the commercial fishing license identification number followed by the letter "B".

Note: This is not a complete list of trap laws and regulations. Please refer to Fish and Game Code, Title 14, CCR, and the Commercial Fish Digest for more information.